

# In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Av, NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
Phone: (202) 727-2980  
Fax: (202) 727-6561  
[www.washingtondc.gov](http://www.washingtondc.gov)

## Message from the Mayor

The DC Tuition Assistance Grant Program makes the dream of attending college a reality for over 1,900 District of Columbia high school seniors and college students.

We have dramatically exceeded our expectations for this program. But the challenge to provide first-class educational opportunities to our citizens continues until every DC resident who wants a college education gets one.

In April, President Bush signed a bill sponsored by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton further expanding the DC Tuition Assistance Grant Program to include more residents – and to give them more choices of where to attend college.

Students can already use the Tuition Assistance Grant Program to attend any one of over 2,500 public colleges and universities in the nation at the low, in-state tuition rate. You can receive an award equal to the difference between the in-state and the out-of-state tuition up to \$10,000 per year. Students may receive up to \$50,000 over their lifetime.

The original act also allowed DC residents to receive a \$2,500 grant to attend Historically Black Colleges or Universities (HBCU) in the Washington metropolitan area. Now, that grant program has been expanded to include any HBCU in the nation. Additionally, students who graduated prior to 1998 may now be eligible. DC residents currently enrolled in college are now eligible, regardless of when they graduated from high school or earned a GED.

I urge all residents who qualify to enroll immediately. It's important to remember that this money is a grant – not a loan. It can open wide the doors of the college or university of your choice and make possible worlds of opportunity. But to take advantage – you have to apply.

Visit our website, [www.tuitiongrant.washingtondc.gov](http://www.tuitiongrant.washingtondc.gov), contact our counselors at (202) 727-2824, or call toll free at 1 (877) 485-6751. A TTY number is available for the hearing impaired (202) 727-1675. A direct dial number for Spanish-speaking residents is also available at (202) 727-8450.

Fill out an application today – and start the process of making the dream of college a reality.

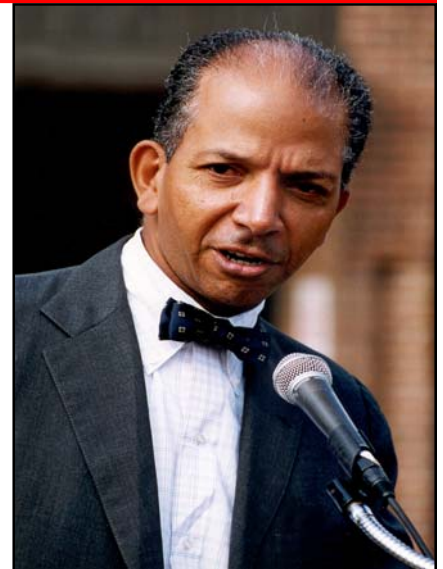
## Better Services for District Youth

When I established the Blue Ribbon Commission on Youth Safety and Juvenile Justice Reform in August 2000, I made it clear that youth services should “treat children as children.” That means that, in the unfortunate circumstances when we house juveniles, we need to give them safety, stability, and dignity so they can start the process of getting their lives back on track.

The new Youth Services Center at 1000 Mount Olivet Road, NE, is a key step toward that goal. The new center will be a state-of-the-art, 80-bed, 105,000 square foot diagnostic facility, which consists of the Youth Detention Center, a police processing center, and community service space.

The process of building the facility has been a model for community planning and coordination. The architecture is even designed to blend in with other structures within this community and to look like an office building – not a jail. It includes a 5,000 square foot space for a variety of community functions, as well as a gymnasium that the general public may use.

The new center means we can house District youths closer to their families in the District instead of at Oak Hill in Maryland. It means we can stop the practice of housing youths who are only being detained together with youths that are already committed. And it means we can move closer to complying with federal court orders and properly diagnosing and treating District youths.



## AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

[Advisory Neighborhood Commissions](#)

## Community Spotlight

### Capitol Hill Computer Corner Helps Narrow the Digital Divide

While studying for his doctorate in urban education, Sam Hampton came to the conclusion that, along with having access to computers, people need to know how to use them. "Computer learning labs help people feel like they are a part of what's going on in the world," said Sam, who is the executive director of the Capitol Hill Computer Corner, a non-profit neighborhood technology center that provides free computer literacy courses to children and adults who live in the area. "When people watch television and see something that says 'visit our website for more information,' they need to be part of that conversation."



*Sam Hampton and "techies,"  
Capitol Hill Computer Corner*

Capitol Hill Computer Corner, which is located at 15th and D Streets, SE, provides 25 networked computers, each of which has Internet access. It is a resource that adults in the community can use to learn how to prepare a resume, undertake a job search on the Internet, or send email to a relative. The center is located in a former liquor store across from Payne Elementary School, whose students take advantage of its before- and after-school programs.

The center has received contributions from businesses such as Verizon, Capital One, and Microsoft, which allow students to work with state-of-the-art technology.

"Since we've been providing instruction, the kids have really fallen in love with this place," said Sam, who would also like to provide teacher training. "Part of the problem with providing a technology curriculum at school is that you have to have teachers with some exposure to technology. Right now, we're trying to figure out how we can help bring teachers up to speed."

According to Sam, everything at the center has a learning theme. "Our purpose is not to be a video arcade for young people—just because you have access to technology doesn't necessarily mean you've accomplished something. Computers are tools that can enhance your quality of life and help you get educated—our biggest challenge is making sure our kids understand that."

Congratulations, Sam, and thank you to you and your board of directors for contributing so much to our community.

## New Information for Crime Victims

In recognition of National Crime Victims Rights Week, April 21-27, and in support of the individuals and families in this city who have been affected by crime, the District now provides an automated notification system that helps protect victims and enhance our city's public safety efforts.

The VINE system (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) represents a technological leap forward for protecting District residents. Serving more than 750 communities in 39 states, VINE is a free, anonymous, and confidential telephone service that provides two important features – information and notification. A toll-free number allows individuals to call and obtain public information about an offender and then register to receive immediate notification upon any change in custody and/or case status.

VINE is linked to a national communications center that provides current information about offenders in the custody of the DC Department of Corrections as well as detainees in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, US Attorney's Office, and Federal Bureau Prisons.

Anyone can use the VINE service – crime victims and their families, victim service providers, or law enforcement and criminal justice professionals. To register with VINE, call toll free **1 (877) 329-7894**. The service is available in English and Spanish 24 hours a day.

Many victims experience a sense of helplessness and insecurity in the aftermath of a crime. The invaluable information sharing now possible through VINE can help restore personal security, promote individual empowerment, and make the District of Columbia a safer place for all.



## LINK TO OTHER WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

## District Celebrates Emancipation Day

In 1854, during his epic debates with Stephen Douglas, Abraham Lincoln stated, "Slavery is founded on the selfishness of man's nature. Opposition to it, on his love of justice." Eight years later, on April 16, 1862, President Lincoln signed the "District of Columbia Emancipation Act," freeing 3,100 slaves in the Nation's Capital, and setting the stage for the national Emancipation Proclamation nine months later.

After the Civil War, Washington residents acknowledged the significance of the legislation by holding annual celebratory parades. Participants dressed in their Sunday best, parade officials sported colorful sashes, and cannons roared on the White House grounds as prominent speakers such as Frederick Douglass addressed the crowds.

The last Emancipation Day Parade took place in 1901, but I was proud to sign legislation authored by Councilmember Vincent Orange re-establishing the Emancipation Day Parade and making April 16 a private holiday in which employees can use leave to celebrate the day. This year – and I hope every year hereafter – we celebrate again a grand District of Columbia tradition with pride.

## District Activities



Participants in the District's Emancipation Day Parade on April 16



Groundbreaking at the new Youth Services Center on Mt. Olivet Road.



Mayor Williams participates in a rally for voting representation for the District.



First Lady Laura Bush and Mayor Anthony Williams unveil elephant and donkey sculptures, 200 of which will be placed around the city.

## Community News

- [Mayor Williams and First Lady Laura Bush Unveil Animal Sculptures](#)
- [Mayor Announces Renewed Recycling Effort in the District](#)
- [City Officials Partner to Preserve Affordable Housing](#)

[Click here](#) to view releases.



## Upcoming Events

04/29	<b>Emergency Preparedness Citizen Update Meeting</b> Matthews Memorial Baptist Church 2616 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
05/03	<b>Bike to Work Day</b> Rally at Freedom Plaza Pennsylvania Avenue, between 13th and 14th Streets, NW 8:00 am - 9:00 am
05/04	<b>Safety Patrol Parade</b> Safety Patrol Parade Reviewing Stands at Constitution Avenue (Between 13th and 14th Streets, NW) 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
05/11	<b>Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day</b> 3815 Fort Drive, NW (Adjacent to Alice Deal Junior High School, Nebraska Avenue and Davenport Street, NW) 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

[Click here](#) to view Mayor's daily schedule.

